

block party in Chicago, Illinois. Jessica Williams, 16, witnessed the shooting and suffered an asthma attack that killed her.

Davon Harper, 23, was killed on July 28 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Anna Bui, Jake Long, and Jordan Ebner, all 19, were killed on July 30 in Washington when Anna's ex-boyfriend showed up at the house party with an AR-15.

Carole Comer, 71; her son, John Comer, 50; and her daughter, Rebecca Kelleher, 45, were killed by their husband and father on July 30 in Bridgeport, Missouri.

Takeeya Fulton, 39, and her children, Nuckeria and Corey, were killed by Takeeya's boyfriend on July 31 in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

A few words about my constituent, Teqnika Moultrie, 30, who was killed on July 31 in Austin, Texas.

She was from San Carlos and worked as a school bus driver for Sequoia Union High School District. She was visiting with her wife's family in Austin when a gunman opened fire as she exited a doughnut shop. She died in her wife's arms. They had only been married for 3 months. After her death, her wife said: We just wanted to live a normal life, an everyday life and raise a family, be good moms and do it together. Now we don't get to do anything.

So many of these people killed at parties, on the sidewalks, and in their homes by people who were supposed to love them don't get to do any of that.

Mr. Speaker, deaths matter. All deaths matter.

ZIKA FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore Congress to take action to fund Zika response efforts in South Florida, throughout the country, and all over the world. Seven months have passed since the administration made its initial request for \$1.9 billion to combat Zika, a request I supported.

As of September 7, the State of Florida alone has seen 596 travel-related cases and 80 Zika infections involving pregnant women. Across the United States, thousands more have been infected with the virus.

Mr. Speaker, Florida has been ground zero for Zika, and we are seeing firsthand the devastating impacts it has not only on public health but on our economy as well.

Neighborhoods in Wynwood and Miami Beach and other communities across Florida are seeing decreased tourist traffic, and some residents, especially pregnant women, are fearful to venture outdoors. My wife and I know pregnant women who have moved away from South Florida to protect themselves and their unborn babies from a potential Zika infection.

Over the months of July and August, I met with the director of the Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Tom Frieden, as well as other government officials, including Senator RUBIO, Governor Scott, and my Florida colleagues from both parties to discuss the progress of the government's response and the importance of funding these efforts long-term.

It is imperative that Congress act on Zika legislation as soon as possible to provide the CDC and other agencies at the national, State, and local levels the tools they need to rid our neighborhoods of this disease. Combating Zika is not a Republican or Democrat initiative. It should be a national priority.

The mosquitoes carrying this disease will not discriminate between congressional lines or infect people from only certain States. All Members of Congress from both parties and across the country must appreciate the severity of inaction on passing Zika funding legislation. Let's put politics aside and get this done for our communities and for all Americans.

CONDEMNING AL-ASSAD'S BRUTALITY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise again to strongly condemn Bashar al-Assad's atrocities against the Syrian people. It has been reported that the government has, once again, unleashed barrel bombs with chlorine gas in Aleppo as the regime continues its brutal siege of that city. Victims of the attack suffered from breathing difficulties similar to the symptoms we have seen in the past when the government ignored international law by assaulting innocent people with chemical weapons.

This was the second recent chlorine attack that affected Syrians who have been cut off from aid and are unable to escape. In spite of repeated warnings, the Syrian Government continues to utilize barrel bombs filled with chemical weapons as a tool to remain in power.

This continued disregard for human life and the well-being of Syrians underscores why Assad must go and not be allowed to take part in the political transition discussions or Syria's future. The death and destruction in Syria is one of the greatest blemishes on human history. The entire world must do more to put an end to it.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the end of the summer marks the beginning of the school year and a fresh start for teachers, students, and families. As a father of two young students and as a former school board member from Miami-Dade County Public Schools and now the husband of a teacher, I greatly cherish this time of year and the excitement that children feel while preparing to enter the next grade.

Soon after classes started, I visited Redland Middle, a school in my district that has greatly benefited from my amendment to provide students learning English an extra year to become

proficient before test scores count against their teachers and schools. Like all students, English language learners must be counted without being counted out, and their teachers deserve our support.

As a proud member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, ensuring young people the brightest future possible is a central focus of my work in Congress. I wish the students, parents, teachers, support staff, and families of Miami-Dade and the Florida Keys much success as this new school year gets underway.

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HONORING MS. TANGELA SEARS

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Tangela Sears, a local activist who has spent decades serving the south Florida community. She has been an outspoken leader on many topics, including gun violence and the need to protect young people in our community from these senseless crimes. She is a confident leader who stands up for her beliefs, and a fearless advocate who works to make south Florida a safer place to live.

A year ago, Tangela's son, David, died at the hands of gun violence, a tragedy she had worked her entire life to prevent. Though heartbroken, she used the memory of David as an opportunity to continue spreading the message of nonviolence and justice more than ever before.

I thank Ms. Sears for her years of service, advocacy, passion, and strength to make our community a better place for all, especially those who live in neighborhoods that have seen a troubling spike in violent crimes. We are extremely grateful for your unrelenting dedication to our community, and I know that David is extremely proud of you.

DEMANDING ACTION ON FLINT, MICHIGAN, AND THE ZIKA VIRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues who are demanding action for the families in Flint, Michigan. First, I want to acknowledge many Members of the Michigan delegation, led by Flint's Representative, Congressman DAN KILDEE, who are fighting every day to bring justice to these families. Their work is essential to ensuring the people of Flint have the resources that they need to recover.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Flint is nothing short of a tragedy, and a tragedy that could have been prevented. Michigan State officials sacrificed the health and futures of Flint's children in order to save a few dollars in water costs. This really is a shame and a disgrace.